

INFORMATION SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Teleconference
March 22, 2000
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Committee members participating:

Don Kashevaroff, Co-Chair, ISAC
Keith Longie, Co-Chair, ISAC

Bob Beneke, Supervisory Computer Specialist (new ISC Chair), Aberdeen Area
Richard Church, CIO, IHS Headquarters East
Keith Crieglow, Chief, Technical Operations, ANTHC
Floyd Dennis, Nashville Area
Susie John
Carolyn Johnson, Health Information Specialist, Warm Springs
Crispin Kinney, IHS Headquarters East
Molin Malicay, California Area
Dawn McCusker, Bemidji Area
Jerry Shanks, Claremore
Ron Wood, Executive Officer, Navajo Area
Jaloo Zelonis, Nurse Consultant, Billings Area

Committee members absent:

Jim Roberts

The teleconference was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

REPORT FROM CO-CHAIR KEITH LONGIE

Follow-up items from the February meeting:

1. Vacancies—Diane Montella Tribal Clinician, an orientation meeting was held with a letter sent to the Office of the Director the week of March 13.
2. Fond Du Reservation—wants position on ISAC? Pending, with a letter sent to the Office of the Director. Work is being done with the Tribal Self-Governance office to appoint a member, with no feedback received yet.
3. Data Quality—this has been finalized and sent to the Office of the Director. Support has been requested, with no information or action taken yet. This is an agenda item for the Executive Leadership group.
4. Official Charter—the charter was completed by Dick Church's staff and includes noted revisions; distribution of the charter is pending.

PSG IMPLEMENTATION

Issue—need to define a process for PSG input to be considered when setting ISAC priorities and plans. Some PSG's are dormant or non-existent.

Discussion—re-establishing PSGs and creating PSGs is a program driven activity and should be coordinated by the Office of Public Health.

ACTION:

1. Dr Church to recommend that OPH coordinate formation/reactivation of PSGs
2. ITSC is coordinating routine conference calls for the PSG's
3. Dr S Griffith is coordinating a Clinical PSG group. They are meeting in Abq in May. This group consists of physicians and will focus on clinical applications (OB/Prenatal, etc)

RISC MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

RISCs Maintenance contract renewals coming up within the next year. There will not be a national contract to maintain systems. Organizations can join a central contract, with discounts based on volumes. Discussion of freed up resources and how to utilize them. ISAC needs to approach the different Area offices for prioritizing any development. Noted that the current contract covers some of the 638 sites, which makes determining allocation of funds a difficult task. In addition, there are a number of sites not covered by the contract. The Assessment Workgroup is looking at central contracts, keeping in mind economy, scale, and support factors.

ACTION: Further discussion of RISC Maintenance issues tabled for Portland meeting.

IMMUNIZATION LICENSING ISSUE

Immunization Licensure Issue: RPMS is public domain software and the new Immunization package has a commercial forecasting algorithm running on the back end. There are licensing issues which exist for sites who have pulled their shares

ACTION:

1. ITSC has extracted the commercial part of the package so that it can be used at sites who have pulled their shares.
2. Further discussion of Immunization Licensing was tabled until the May meeting in Portland.

DATA PROCESSING STATUS FROM RUS

The group is working on the 1997 User Populations. The latest information will be available today, March 22. Dan Cameron is working on 1998 and 1999 information. There is no indication of when 1998 will be done. Noted that the changes are happening too quickly and totals are one percent of the old numbers. Headquarters is also working on this. The available data will be used in the Level of Need Funded (LNF) on April 1, 2000. The program decision is to move forward with the formula as exact numbers will never be achieved.

IT BUYBACK

Question as to whether any new information was available yet regarding the IT Buyback as Alaska's Pre-Negotiations begin the week of April 3. Noted that Russ will know more about any new categories the week of March 27. This is an issue for ISAC to resolve (it is too late for this year). This will be an end of year question.

PORTLAND AREA E-MAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

Carolyn Johnson noted that there are currently two recommendations:

1. IHS should, as a high priority, establish an appropriately constituted technical group to recommend for the Agency encryption standards, and other measures, for the safeguarding of electron transmission of patient-specific medical information by e-mail and otherwise.
2. (The standards) These not only should be acceptable to and feasible for the Agency, but should be of potential use to all local IHS/Tribal/Urban direct care sites, with a minimum of expense of training required.

Questions: Any wording changes? None noted. *What is the goal—to study or find a way to allow?* Noted that the recommendation is to allow.

Dick Church has the final document. Discussion of firewall and virtual private network (VPN) factors and the need for guidelines/authority; noted that there are also technical and program issues, with HIPAA implications (ref. HCFA guidelines as well).

ACTION: Portland Area E-mail Recommendations were approved as an ISAC recommendation.

FY 2000 \$2 MILLION

The RPMS program funds are non-recurring for this year, with support funds for RPMS enhancements and telecommunications access (equal funding); two hundred fifty thousand is available for VPNs. Noted that funds can be obligated before year end. An expressed concern is for tribal and urban site requests for technology—it needs to be for technology not already installed (Internet access) or upgrades. Discussion of the need to solicit input criteria from the ISCs and telecommunications officers.

ACTION: Further discussion of RPMS FY 2000 funds was tabled until the April meeting.

Floyd Dennis shared that he is the new ISC for Nashville Area.

Action items for Russ:

1. Brainstorm criteria list for the \$2 million funds
2. PSG meeting regarding forming groups
3. IT Buyback information prior to Alaska's Pre-Negotiations